



OFFICE OF THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

SHEILA SIMON – LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

P-20 Joint Education Leadership Committee Meeting Minutes

Thursday, December 12th at 1:30pm

Lt. Governor's Capitol Office
Springfield, IL

Lt. Governor's Chicago Office
James R. Thompson Center
Chicago, IL

A- Roll Call

Chicago

Lt. Governor Sheila Simon
Miguel del Valle, P-20 Council Chairman
Executive Director Eric Zarnikow, IL Student Assistance Commission
Evelina Loescher, IL Department of Employment Security
Theresa Hawley, IL Early Learning Council
Julie Smith, Governor's Office
Amber Kirchhoff, Governor's Office
George Letavish, Governor's Office
Leslie Reis, Lt. Governor's Office

Springfield

Executive Director Harry Berman, IL Board of Higher Education
Executive Director Karen Anderson, IL Community College Board
Executive Director Janet Holt, IL Education Research Council
Al Phillips, IL Board of Higher Education
Dan Cullen, IL Board of Higher Education
Debbie Meisner-Bertauski, IL Board of Higher Education
Jennifer Foster, IL Community College Board
Lynne Haeffele, Lt. Governor's Office
Crystal Saint, Lt. Governor's Office

Phone

Susie Morrison, IL State Board of Education

President Cathy Veal, Illinois Mathematics and Science Academy

Absent

State Superintendent Chris Koch, IL State Board of Education

Acting Director Adam Pollett, IL Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity

B- Approval of October 2013 Meeting Minutes

Lt. Governor Simon asked for a motion to approve the October meeting minutes. A motion was made by Smith and seconded by Zarnikow. Motion was passed unanimously.

C- Update on K-12 School Funding Reform Efforts with Susie Morrison of the Illinois State Board of Education (10 minutes)

Morrison gave an update on the progress of the Senate Education Funding Advisory Committee (EFAC). The purpose of the committee is to create a new state education funding system that would provide adequate, transparent, and fair funding to school districts in order to produce college and career ready students. It has met several times to talk with Illinois stakeholders and experts from around the country. The committee will present its findings to the General Assembly and put forth a proposal on Feb 1st. Materials from the work of the committee are posted on the ISBE website.

ISBE has recommended that any new formula follow these guiding principles: 1) adequacy—providing the level funding sufficient to provide a high-quality education, 2) simplicity—providing districts with a predictable, understandable revenue stream, 3) transparency, 4) equity—weighting the formula to account for student need, and 5) outcome-focused—encouraging student growth.

The Education Funding Advisory Board (EFAB) will also come out with its recommendations in January or February of this year. They are also thinking about revamping how they calculate their adequate funding number.

D- Report on the 2013 ISBE-ROE Service Evaluation Survey Results with Dr. Lynne Haeffele of the Lt. Governor's Office (10 minutes)

Haeffele summarized the Service Evaluation Survey—a survey voluntarily completed by district superintendents that annually evaluates the services of ISBE, Regional Offices of Education (ROEs), and Intermediate Service Centers in Cook County—which the Lt. Governor's Office is statutorily required to administer this survey every year. In previous administrations, the survey was used to compare ISBE and ROEs to each other. Last year, the survey was revised to evaluate the entities regarding the quality and importance of the services they each offer.

This year, 350 districts participated in the survey and gave generally high marks to ISBE and ROEs. The services that received lower marks were related to inadequate education funding and other systemic issues. The entities received high marks in leadership, communication, responsiveness to requests for assistance, and satisfactory resolution for requests. Districts said that they will need help in the future to implement Common Core changes, new PARCC tests, and student growth data in teacher evaluations.

This year the Service Evaluation Survey was administered in partnership with Illinois State University's Superintendent Survey, which surveys opinions about various policy issues. The majority of respondents supported an income tax increase with or without a property tax swap, 75% said they would support a local sales tax for education funds, and 90% approved of 2 year funding cycle which would improve funding predictability.

The report on this year's Service Evaluation Survey is being sent to the General Assembly today, and it can be found on the Lt. Governor's website.

E- Update on the Scaling Up Effective Practice in Higher Education Conference with Dr. Lynne Haeffele of the Lt. Governor's Office (10 minutes)

Haeffele expressed thanks to IBHE, ICCB, and ISAC for helping plan the conference. This conference was sponsored by the Lumina Foundation as a follow up to Simon's tour of all of Illinois' community colleges and public university campuses. At these individual institutions she identified effective practices that could be scaled up on other campuses statewide. The purpose of the conference was to provide a forum to share the effective practices as well as mechanisms for "scaling up". 160 campus leaders were present. Simon and Jamie Merisotis, CEO of the Lumina Foundation, kicked off the conference. The keynote speakers were Dr. Christopher Dede, an expert on scaling from Harvard Graduate School of Education, and Dr. Larry Abele, former Provost of Florida State University, who successfully implemented a "Guided Pathways to Success" program. Many institutions showed interest in the innovative practices presented. Dr. Haeffele discussed the importance of coordination and co-planning between agencies so that efforts build upon each other.

Daily Herald and the Springfield Journal-Register newspapers published an op-ed by Harry Berman relating to the conference.

F- Update on the Lumina-Sponsored College Scorecard Crowdsourcing Competition with Harry Berman, Executive Director of the Illinois Board of Higher Education (10 minutes)

Berman said that crowdsourcing is when a company or institution outsources projects via an open call to outside individuals. Enocentive—a website service that fosters crowdsourcing for commercial, governmental, and humanitarian organizations—posted a competition to develop an improved user interface for the College Scorecard. 394 people applied and \$10,000 was presented by the Lumina Foundation to the winners of the challenge. Berman said that he is interested to see the results.

G- Update on the ILDS Governance Committee and the Formation of the IBHE ILDS Advisory Committee with Julie Smith, Deputy Chief of Staff for Governor's Office and Al Phillips of the Illinois Board of Higher Education (10 minutes)

Smith indicated that the Illinois Longitudinal Data System (ILDS) Governance Committee is now in place and chaired by John Evans of the University of Illinois. The group examined their charge and has considered changes to the structure of the database, where it will be maintained, and who will be the database administrator. The issue of funding is pressing, following the loss of federal grants.

The group acknowledged a need to get an estimate of funding necessary to sustain the ILDS. Smith said that they have looked to other states for comparisons. Washington and Florida were two notable examples.

Phillips stated that The Illinois Higher Ed Consortium (IHEC) has been disbanded with the establishment of the ILDS Governance Committee. IBHE is creating a charter that will form an IBHE Advisory Committee to inform the agency of institutional concerns with the ILDS. 5 public universities, 5 non-profit institutions, 2 for-profit institutions, and a number of community colleges are currently interested. Other partners include IERC, ICCB, ISAC, IMSA, and IEA-NEA. Phillips suggests that this committee is a way to continue to maintain relationships and incorporate input into IBHE's participation on the governing board.

Anderson said that ICCB has maintained an advisory committee for the past 20 years. It started as an advisory committee for a management information system, but has been written into statute, and continues to give advice to the board and staff.

Miguel del Valle indicated that workforce supply and demand data needs to be analyzed to show what jobs are in-demand in specific regions. He said that this sort of information helps legislators understand educational needs. Anderson agreed that this information would be useful. The group discussed other data that will be good to have once the ILDS is fully realized.

Berman mentioned that as part of the technical assistance grant from Complete College America, the group will be able to access more data about the relationship between supply and demand in Illinois through the Burning Glass data.

H- Discussion on Illinois' Participation in Youth CareerConnect with Harry Berman, Executive Director of the Illinois Board of Higher Education; Karen Hunter Anderson, Executive Director of the Illinois Community College Board; and George Letavish of the Governor's Office (10 minutes)

Berman discussed the Youth CareerConnect program being run by the U.S. Department of Labor to encourage career education and awareness by providing industry-relevant information in high school. Funding is coming from a portion of the fees for H1B Visa applications filed by non-immigrant and foreign employees working in specialty occupations where there are no domestic workers available for roles. Youth CareerConnect fosters partnerships with local education agencies, workforce agencies, non-profits, and universities—much like what Illinois is doing with Illinois Pathways.

Anderson said that the goals for the program are to improve integrated academic focused learning, workplace learning, employer engagement, individual career counseling, and post secondary training. She knows of 13 community colleges that are looking at partnerships with other entities to submit applications.

Foster stated that she is seeing more initiatives coming out that improve employer engagement. ICCB is working a project called Accelerating Opportunity through Jobs for the Future. It engages low-skilled adults back into post-secondary education, and engages employers as part of the process. Further decisions on the program will be made in early 2014.

Letavish said that there is an upcoming webinar for folks to learn how they can partner with the Illinois Pathways Learning Exchanges and Youth CareerConnect.

I- Introduction to the Overgrad, College Planning Tool with Ryan Hoch (25 mins)

Smith said that she would like this to begin a conversation on the different tools available to students to help them plan for college and careers.

Hoch discussed how Overgrad helps students see early on if they are on-track or off-track—with GPA and test scores—in relation to their goals. Students start using the program as a freshman or sophomore in high school. They add colleges they are interested in to their “dashboard,” where the program shows them the average net price they would pay to attend these schools based on their income bracket. The program can also be used to search and sort schools by graduation rates, ethnicity, ACT scores, GPA, etc. Universities can use the program to locate student to recruit, if the student opts-in—which is how Overgrad makes money. Hoch likened Overgrad to LinkedIn in that colleges can express interest in students while helping students get informed about various colleges.

Hoch has received positive feedback from students and teachers thus far. The program is free for students and schools, unlike the program’s competitor Naviance which costs \$2-4 per student and is not as focused on freshman and sophomore students. Naviance is also more of a tool for school counselors to track students, rather than having students track their own success. Overgrad is currently focused primarily on schools in Illinois. They are currently at 35 schools in the state, but are soon to add another county which will hopefully double their numbers. Their long term vision is to be able to map the pathway of students from being freshman in high school through the completion of their college careers.

Hoch added that there are a bunch of analysis and tracking capabilities for high schools and universities.

J- Discussion of State Agency College and Career Planning Tools with Julie Smith of the Governor’s Office (15 mins)

Zarnikow said that ISAC offers What’s Next Illinois, which is a college and career planning tool which is free for students and schools to use. They work closely with CPS, and CPS has helped to pay for parts of the program to customize specifically for their needs. Rather than a closed system, the group wants to create an open system that would provide a one-stop portal to access the many facets of post-high school readiness resources. By partnering with competitors across these fields would result in a better product for students.

Letavish said that the current program is a great tool but it is limited because the technological platform needs to be updated. He and other ISLE collaborators have met to check out the alternative programs that exist. Programs discussed like Overgrad, College Green Light and the ACT College Profile served as good examples.

The committee discussed these new options.

K- State Agency Updates (20 minutes)

Lt. Governor Simon said that she just got back from a meeting in Colorado with the Education Commission of the States to discuss the possible implementation of national standards to select who needs remediation and measure the success of remediation. Those at the meeting generally liked the idea.

Zarnikow stated his concerns with the ISAC budget, as in past years the agency's overhead has been covered by the money they make through administering federal grant programs like PELL. As the federal government cuts programs like PELL, ISAC won't be able to make enough to cover their overhead. The agency won't be affected until July 1st of next year, so they have time to talk with General Assembly members about adding a line for ISAC in the GRF.

Zarnikow added that the MAP Advising Work Group will be filing its report on Feb. 3, and that enrollment period for College Illinois is open.

Hawley said that the Governor's Office of Early Childhood Education hosted 4 regional conferences with IBHE and ICCB on the topic of early childhood program articulation. On April 9th, they will be hosting a Governor's symposium on foundations for learning for birth-3rd grade.

Del Valle said that the next P-20 Council meeting date is TBD.

Berman indicated that the Illinois Board of Higher Education selected Dr. James Applegate, former Vice President of the Lumina Foundation, to be IBHE's new director. He will begin in February or March.

Holt said that the IERC produced two reports during the last quarter. One tracked the diversity of teacher preparation pipeline. IERC has presented on other research in various venues since the last JELC meeting.

Anderson said that within the next few months ICCB will be convening their annual meeting with college presidents, chief academic officers, and student services officers to discuss services to veterans. In the next year, ICCB will also be releasing an economic impact study and working on a workforce strategic plan. In October, they will be hosting the National Association of Concurrent Enrollment Programs (NACEP) national conference in Chicago, as well as the national conference for the American Association of Community College Trustees (AACCT).

Foster said that new GED changes will go into effect January 2, 2014. Testing centers have been gearing up for the switch. Training and professional development for prep classes has been offered throughout the state. There will now be two level of passing: regular and honors. Scores have been aligned with ACTs scores and college and career readiness standards.

Meeting times for next year have been circulated. Any questions should be forwarded to Crystal.

L- Other Business

M- Next meeting is TBA

N- Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned.